

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electronic video slot machine enables wild symbols to expand into adjacent symbols positions -- vertically, horizontally, and/or diagonally -- in the symbol matrix ("Directional Wilds"). In one embodiment, the Directional Wild concept uses wild symbols that expand in a pre-determined vertical direction -- upwards or downwards. The upwards wild symbol ("Up Wild") converts all of the symbol positions above the Up Wild into wild symbols. The downwards wild symbol ("Down Wild") converts all of the symbol positions below the Down Wild into wild symbols. The original position of the Up or Down Wild symbol is also optionally wild. Various alternative embodiments may optionally be used.